

September 9, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)

Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

3320 99 SEP 17 A9 54

Re: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dear Dockets Management Branch:

I am concerned about the human health and animal cruelty side effects of the egg industry. Forced molting typifies my worries. The FDA should grant the April 1998 petition to ban forced molting immediately.

As the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation & water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of *Salmonella enteritidis* by laying hens subjected to these practices."

Forced molting is not only dreadfully cruel, but has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems. It is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs & consumers of eggs!

and responsibility

The FDA has the authority to ban farm practices that injure human health, please put an end to forced molting immediately.

Sincerely:

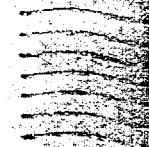


Delanna Woolston 96P-0418

P.O. Box 871  
Skagway, AK 99840  
(907) 983-2534

C 612

D. Woolston  
P.O. Box 871  
Skaqway, AK 99840



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C612

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C613  
96P-0418/C612